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## Grants Pass Department Of Public Safety

### Contact Information:

#### Non-Emergency

541-450-6260

#### Fire

541-450-6200

#### City Hall

541-450-6000



## Neighborhood Watch Newsletter May—June 2014

### Kids in Vehicles Safety

In 2013, 44 children died from being left in hot cars nationwide, an increase from 2012. This is caused by our daily routines and distractions that cause people to forget or mistakenly leave their children unattended in vehicles. Children are at a greater risk of death because their body heats up three to five times faster than an adult. Not all deaths were caused by children being left unattended in cars, but also from kids locking themselves in vehicles to play. We need to prevent these tragedies from reaching our community by informing parents of the danger and the public of what their response should be.

- Dial 911 immediately if you see a child left in a vehicle.
- Never leave a child unattended in a vehicle, even if you leave the windows open. When the outside temperature is 101 degrees, the inside temperature of a vehicle reaches 140 degrees.
- Never leave your child in a running vehicle. It only takes a moment for the child to put the vehicle out of park or for someone to steal your vehicle with the child in it.
- Place your cell phone, purse, brief case, gym bag, whatever you are going to carry in with you, in the back seat on the floor in front of your child. This will remind you that your child is back there when you reach back to get your items.
- Set your cell phone reminder to make sure you dropped your child off at daycare.
- Have a pre-plan with your daycare so that they will call you if your child is late. If your schedule changes, make sure your daycare provider is aware.
- To prevent children from being locked in a trunk, lock all your doors and trunk when everyone has exited the vehicle. Keep keys out of your children's reach.
- If your child is missing, check your vehicle and trunk first.
- Teach your children that vehicles are never to be used as a play area.

If you have any questions, please contact Officer Lesley Donaghy Grants Pass Department of Public Safety Crime Prevention Bureau at 541-450-6245.



## Ember Alert

They'll be coming this summer. Be on the watch for wildfire embers. A wildfire can produce millions of firebrands or embers. These embers can travel up to a mile from the actual wildfire, drop down and start additional spot fires where they land. This includes landing on or next to your house. So even if you don't live in a forested area, or have done defensible space around your home, you need to protect the house from these nasty little pests. Did you know that there are more houses lost to embers during a wildfire than from the actual fire itself? Individually, they don't seem like a big deal, but if they land in contact with something that ignites easily such as dry leaves or grass, they can start a fire that could destroy your home. Here are some ways to help protect your home from embers

Remove leaves and pine needles from gutters

Rake leaves and other dry vegetation away from your house.

Remove plant debris, leaves and pine needles from your roof

Make sure all eave and foundations vents are covered with metal screening.

(1/8" metal screening is recommended)

Keep areas under decks and porches clean and free of any combustible material.

(Enclosing this area with 1/8" metal screening will keep both leaves and embers out)

Keep woodpiles at least 30 feet from the house

Make sure any open windows are protected with 1/8" metal screening

## Animals in Vehicles Safety

As the hot summer months approach, the Grants Pass Department of Public Safety will see an increase in calls regarding dogs being left in vehicles. It takes only minutes for a dog left in a vehicle on a warm day to start showing signs of heatstroke and suffocation, which can lead to death. Temperatures inside a vehicle can be more than 10 to 15 degrees hotter if the vehicle is parked in the shade, and can double the outside temperature if it is parked in the sun. Rolling windows down or parking in the shade isn't the answer since temperatures can still be dangerous. Also if the window is left down too far the dog may escape.

- Leave your dog at home on warm days. You don't want to take the chance of injury or death to your pet.
- If you see signs of heat exhaustion (restlessness, excessive thirst, heavy panting, lethargy, fever, vomiting, lack of coordination) take the dog to the shade, an air conditioned area or a veterinarian.
- If you see a dog left in a vehicle on a hot day, document the location, car make, model, color and license plate number. Contact the police department and advise them of the information.